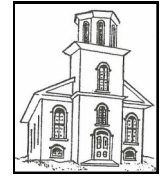


PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



## CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2013

### MARY TODD LINCOLN's STORY TO BE TOLD

The life and times of Mary Todd Lincoln will be the subject of Terry Kehoe's talk at the Society on Sunday, February 10, 2013 at 2 PM.

Kehoe, a Utica resident, is a retired math teacher from New Hartford High School, and is an adjunct professor at SUNYIT in Marcy. His program is entitled "Lincoln and Mary Todd- a complex union." He will present his topic using a PowerPoint show plus a brief movie.

Display chair Faye Cittadino has placed some pictures of Mary Todd Lincoln in the display cases along with women's clothing of that period.

Refreshments will follow the talk.

### YEAR-END DONATIONS HELP A LOT

33 members have donated to the December 2012 appeal. The Society is grateful to Frank Vlossak IV, Civita and Jerome Schilling, James and Mai Sultenfuss, Nancy Dubner, Jay and Hermine Williams, Gary and Dourice Jordahl, Mrs. Harold Heintz, James Scala, Fred and Judy Wollin, Thomas and Eleanor Scott, Dora Schwaiger, Helen and Bill Owens, David Sinclair, Francis and Gwen Lallier, Dick and Jean Williams, Mrs. Robert Sheridan, Fred Herriman, James Grande and William Sequin, Jr., Jerrold and Marie Duink, Patrick Reynolds and Damhnait McHugh, and Trudy Hawley. This appeal raised over \$1300.00. Many thanks to all who participated.

### NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes these new members: Jon and Barbara Britt-Hysell, Robert and Susan Schwaiger, Allyn Earl, Stewart and Leslie Bormann. These memberships were all gifts of other members. This is a great idea any time at birthday, anniversary, Christmas, and other times to make a the gift of local history.

### Ed's 1945 Ad

One of the Society's founders, Ed Stanley, placed this ad in the *Clinton Courier* February 1, 1945. It read, "**HISTORICAL ITEMS- data and material on Clinton's past. Any subject or dates. Contact Edward W. Stanley, phone 374, Clinton.**" Many of the Society's current holdings came from Ed. The Society continues its "quest" for material of our past in order to preserve it for the future. Ed, also known as "Mr. Hockey," collected much local history all his life. What do you have for our collection? Stop in during our open hours with your photo, artifact, or family tree, etc.

Clinton Historical Society  
Founded in 1962

#### **DIRECTORS**

Mary Benson Byrd  
Daryl Chesebro- treasurer  
Faye M. Cittadino  
Frank Cittadino  
Paul Frey  
Fran Lallier  
Wade Lallier  
Barbara Owens- vice-  
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Diane Parrish  
Robert Tegart- president  
Richard Williams- secretary

#### **Web Site**

[www.clintonhistory.org](http://www.clintonhistory.org)

#### **Phone**

315-859-1392

#### **Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 42  
Clinton, New York 13323

#### **OPEN HOURS**

Wednesday 1-3  
Saturday 9-12



**FACEBOOK**  
**Clinton Historical**  
**Society (Original)**

#### **Editor**

**Richard Williams**

**Dues-** \$10.00 individual,  
\$15.00 family/ busi-  
ness,\$25.00 friend,\$50.00  
contributing

## **OUTDOOR RINK ON FRANKLIN AVENUE**

In the January 2013 issue we began an article on the old outdoor rink on the site of today's Clinton Tractor & Implement Co., formerly Dey Chevrolet.

The rink's conditions depended on the weather. Whether or not it was windy, raining, snowing, or sunny the skating and games tried to go forward. Mushy ice or no ice or good ice all happened over the years.

Spectators had to stand in snow banks to watch the games and contend with the whipping wind some days. Ed Stanley bought a large canvas from a Utica bank owner which was put up to block the wind.

Winter thaws produced soft ice which caused activities to cease. Soft ice could cause unsafe situations. An entry in the rink's log for December 13, 1927 read, "temperature high ice still melting" and December 22, 1928, "temperature noon 33, one coat of water put on by Clark."

Volunteerism at its best made the outdoor rink succeed as no one was paid. Fred Goering oversaw the operation for several years. Others pitched in to tend the warming shed, spray water on the ice, or sell refreshments.

Ray Ingalls supervised the rink in 1944, and Harry Keith was treasurer. Harold Dickey volunteered in the warming shed along with many others. The Chamber/Board of Trade committee had volunteers A.E. Swartwout, C.W. Chaney, J.W. Delahunt, A.W. Scoones, J.W. Dawes, and Fred Goering.

The budget for 1929-30 was \$1332.46. Income was gained from the following: village \$250.00, school district #4 \$250.00, ticket sales \$350.00, carnival \$150.00, hockey games \$30.00, and a year-end cash balance of \$302.46.

In 1931 the rink surface was enlarged eight feet in length and eight feet in width, and two new flood lights were installed. Lights to allow night hockey games went up in 1936.

Seven years later in 1937 the rink was open 54 days, and the village voters passed 49-1 a \$300.00 appropriation for the rink. In that year 286 student season tickets were sold and 96 adult ones indicating the level of patronage.

During World War II in 1943-44 309 student season tickets were sold and 87 adult ones for skating.

After World War II it was reported that 1944-45 was a poor year due to poor weather. Attendance dropped, and the rink, now 19 years old, needed "extensive repairs." Receipts were \$1461 and disbursements were \$1256 leaving a \$204 balance. The next year was called a "poor year" financially.

The consensus for an indoor rink received universal approval, and Ed Stanley and Albert Prettyman looked at moving a large old US Navy drill hall from Geneva. However, the village committee went north to Canada and viewed arenas there.

In Gananoque a Quonset hut-type rink was seen with seating on just one side. Coach Bob Williams suggested that you should have seating on both sides. From that visit plans were developed for the first Clinton Arena with curved Douglas fir supports holding the aluminum sheeting for the roof.

Plans were made, H.H. Beebe Construction got the contract, many volunteers also pitched in to help, and the arena was underway in summer of 1948.

No pipes and equipment for ice-making were included in the budget so the ice had to be cleaned off manually, and someone had to spray water over the surface to put a new layer on the ice. Warm weather caused "mushy" ice and unsafe skating.

The new arena would be 225' long by 108' wide and 50' high with seating for 1250 spectators. It was thought to be the biggest aluminum-covered structure in the northeast.

Local citizens and businesses donated money and got non-interest bearing certificates and bonds in return. A Mercury car raffle and other fund-raising took place,

## FREE GENEALOGY WORKSHOP SET FOR MARCH 2

One benefit for your membership will be a free genealogy workshop on March 2, 2013 at 2 PM at the Society. Society editor, past president, and current secretary of the Society Richard Williams will present a session for those new or more advanced in researching their family trees.

Williams will distribute a 25-page booklet with all sorts of tips and suggestions on how to find out more about your ancestors. Traditional and online resources will be discussed.

Registration is required to assure sufficient copies of the booklet. Non-members are also welcome with a \$5.00 fee for the booklet. The workshop will last up to 1 & 1/2 hours, no longer.

Contact Williams at UL3-5018 or via e-mail at [Apulia@verizon.net](mailto:Apulia@verizon.net) by a **February 26, 2013 deadline**. Those who register online be sure to provide your name and phone number.

## SHELVING AVAILABLE

The Society acquired much professional library-quality metal shelving a few years ago and has installed much of it in the loft and downstairs. Shelving is now leftover, and the board of directors has decided to give it away free to members on a first-come, first-serve basis. It would be good for a den or garage or basement. The color is tan, and it is in good condition. Your only cost is to haul it away. To view it call Richard Williams at 853-5018 as it is stored in his barn.

## EVENTS AHEAD

March 10, 2013, 2 PM– Christian Goodwillie will discuss early Clinton Settler Barnabas Pond; Goodwillie has just bought the Pond house at 54 Kirkland Avenue

April 14, 2013– Polly Blunk will talk about her life as an artist, 2 PM.

May– annual business meeting, date to be set

**Historic Clinton Week**– July 1-8, 2013

July 6, 2013– Clinton High School reunion

## PRATT AVENUE IN CLARK MILLS

Turn right at the four corners in Clark Mills, and you're on Pratt Avenue. Where did the name come from?

Charles T. Pratt (1858-1930) was born in Clark Mills the son of Henry and Julia Carlton Pratt. Henry was involved with the Clark Brothers knitting mill.

Charles T. went on to found Pratt Chuck Co. which made drill chucks for engine lathes in Clayville and moved his operation to Frankfort in 1897.

He was a master mechanic and tried to build an auto with an extra set of wheels just ahead of the rear wheels. He did not pursue this venture.

The Clinton Historical Society depends upon the tremendous generosity of its 550 members who donate dues and to special appeals. Please help us advance our work of preserving and presenting Clinton and Kirkland's rich heritage by remembering the Society in your will and estate planning.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### President's letter

Happy New Year! We had a great holiday season with our Chamber of Commerce event, Village Shoppers Stroll, and Christmas Socializer. Clarence Aldridge's presentation of "the 12 Days of Christmas" got rave reviews. Thanks to all the volunteers who provided food and drink for the festivities.

The tree and decorations are stored away, and we look forward to another year of activity. We will continue to be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and our world class research team will be available to help you trace your family roots, date your house or get information on a veteran.

We are planning to rearrange the downstairs exhibits, sort our photo collection, inventory documents, and continue to scan and catalog our collection. The coffee pot is always on – want to help? Also be watching for some special presentations on those upcoming wintery Saturdays. In March Dick Williams has offered to present his well-acclaimed program on genealogy. Stay tuned.

*Robert Tegar*

## CAWLEYS TO GIOVANNI'S PIZZA SHOP

The changing automobile industry and the changing food industry have caused changes to the oldest business location in Clinton.

12 East Park Row has been a business spot since the 1800 when Jedediah Sanger sold general merchandise, and Clinton was a young pioneer village.

Tom Cawley opened a car dealership and farm equipment in 1935 selling Mercury cars and Bolen small engine apparatus. Cawley's closed in April 2000, and today pizza is the main ingredient for customers, not cars. The east side of the store is Fisher Auto Parts.

